

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 173535  
ORIGIN MCT-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SY-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00  
SCS-03 PRS-01 /028 R

DRAFTED BY M/CT:J E KARKASHIAN:PAD  
APPROVED BY M/CT:J E KARKASHIAN  
ARA/AND/C:W C SERGEANT

-----071419 252117Z /64

P 252024Z JUL 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 173535

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, VE, US

SUBJECT: NIEHOUS KIDNAPPING

1. WILLIAM COLEMAN, OWENS-ILLINOIS, VICE PRESIDENT, CONTACTED DEPARTMENT OFFICER JULY 21 TO SAY HE HAD RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM PRIVATE SOURCES THAT GOV HAS "STUMBLER ON INFORMATION" AS A CONSEQUENCE OF RECENT ARRESTS OF LEFTIST ACTIVISTS WHICH INDICATES THAT NIEHOUS IS DEAD. COLEMAN DID NOT ELABORATE ON INFORMATION ALLEGED TO BE IN GOV POSSESSION AND DEPARTMENT OFFICER DID NOT REVEAL KNOWLEDGE OF RECENT INTELLIGENCE REPORTS ON THIS SUBJECT.

2. COLEMAN WENT ON TO STATE HE HAD FURTHER INFORMATION FROM SEVERAL SOURCES THAT EL NACIONAL REPORTER, GERMAN CARRIAS HAS INFORMATION FROM SOURCES PRESUMED TO BE CLOSE TO KIDNAPPERS THAT NIEHOUS DIED ON APRIL 8, 1977 FROM "NATURAL CAUSES." THIS INFORMATION ALLEGES NIEHOUS' BODY IS BURIED SOMEWHERE NEAR "BARCELONA." COLEMAN SAID  
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A SECOND EL NACIONAL REPORTER, FNU CASTELLANAS, REPORTEDLY HAS RECEIVED SIMILAR INFORMATION.

3. COLEMAN ALSO STATED THAT A THIRD EL NACIONAL REPORTER, FNU SCHMIDT, WHO IS WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE OF THAT NEWSPAPER, ALSO IS SUPPOSED TO POSSESS SOME OF THE FORE-

GOING INFORMATION. COLEMAN SAID HE DID NOT KNOW IF THIS INFORMATION IS KNOWN TO THE GOV. HE ASKED THAT THE ABOVE BE TRANSMITTED TO EMBASSY CARACAS AND REQUESTED THAT SOMEONE CONTACT THE TWO REPORTERS THERE TO CHECK OUT WHAT THEY KNEW. HE FURTHER SUGGESTED THAT THE DEPARTMENT CONTACT SCHMIDT IN WASHINGTON FOR THE PURPOSE.

4. THE DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S COMMENTS ON THE FOREGOING, SPECIFICALLY WHETHER SUCH CONTACTS ARE FEASIBLE OR DESIRABLE. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Drafter:** J E KARKASHIAN:PAD  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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